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PROUDLY PRESENTS THE FATALISTIC
FIFTH ISSUE OF THE **ALL-NEW...**

TALES FROM THE CRYPT®

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO **WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN, REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL WILLIAMSON,** AND **WALLY WOOD.**

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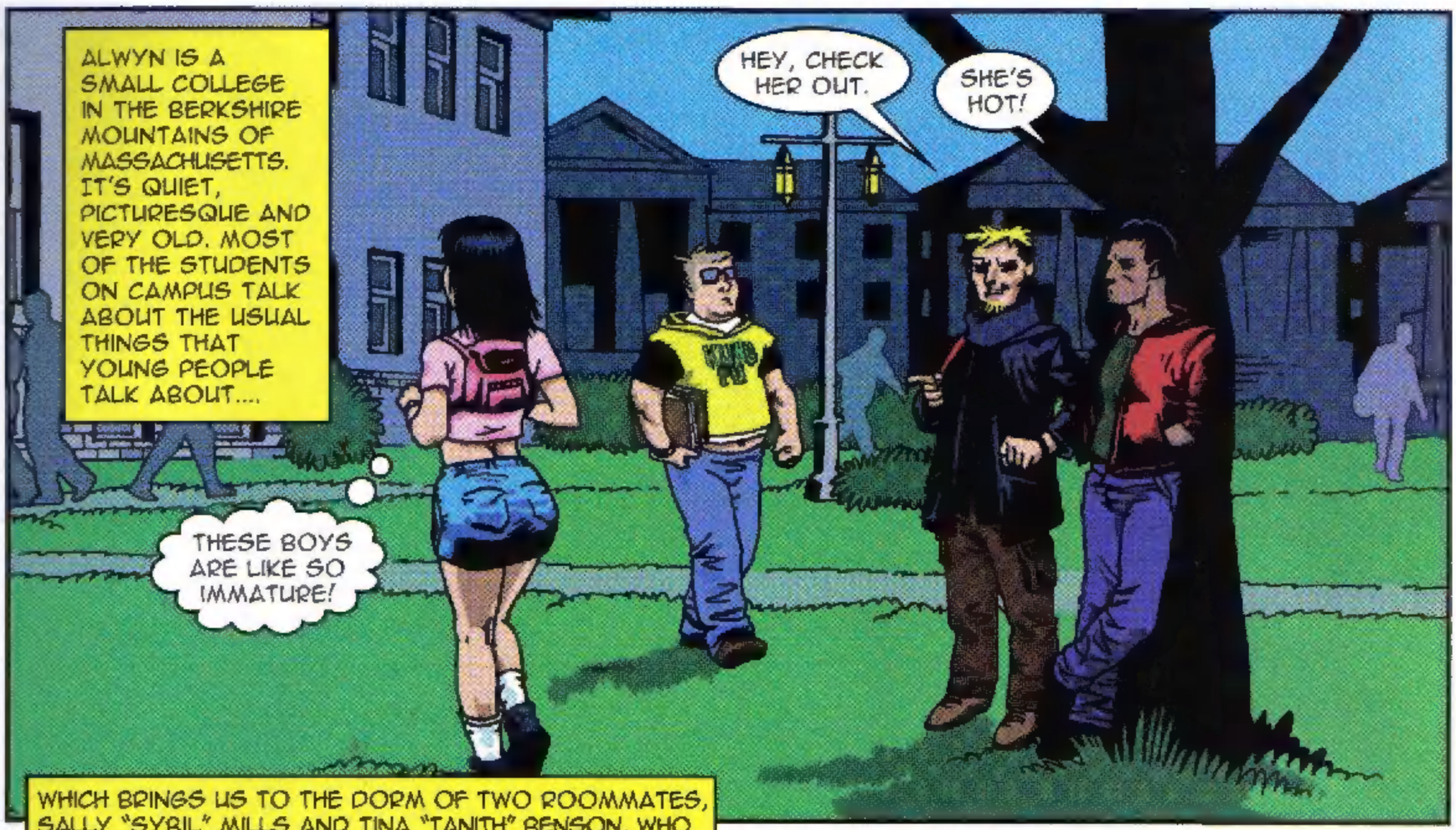
HEY, OLD WITCH, HOW LONG IS THE CRYPT-KEEPER GOING TO KEEP READING HIS FAN MAIL?
OH, LET HIM BE, VAULT-KEEPER!
IT KEEPS HIM FROM TELLING THOSE INSUFFERABLE YARNS OF HIS! NOW IF HE WERE AS GOOD AS MY FAVORITE HORROR WRITER, VICTORIA PRICE, I WOULDN'T MIND! TAKE FOR EXAMPLE, THIS TALE OF GREED AND BETRAYAL ENTITLED...
QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES


ALWYN IS A SMALL COLLEGE IN THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS OF MASSACHUSETTS. IT'S QUIET, PICTURESQUE AND VERY OLD. MOST OF THE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS TALK ABOUT THE USUAL THINGS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE TALK ABOUT....
HEY, CHECK HER OUT.
SHE'S HOT!
THESE BOYS ARE LIKE SO IMMATURE!

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE DORM OF TWO ROOMMATES, SALLY "SYBIL" MILLS AND TINA "TANITH" BENSON, WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE SUBJECT...
GUESS WHAT I GOT, TANITH? VICTORIA PRICE'S NEW VAMPIRE DUBOIS NOVEL, "BOUQUET OF BLOOD"!
THAT'S NOT DUE OUT TILL NEXT MONTH! HOW'D YOU GET IT?

IT'S AN ARC--AN ADVANCE READING COPY! I POSED AS THE ALWYN CAMPUS NEWS' BOOK CRITIC.
YOU'RE BAD! C'MON LET'S READ IT!
VICTORIA PRIC
BOUQUET OF BLOOD

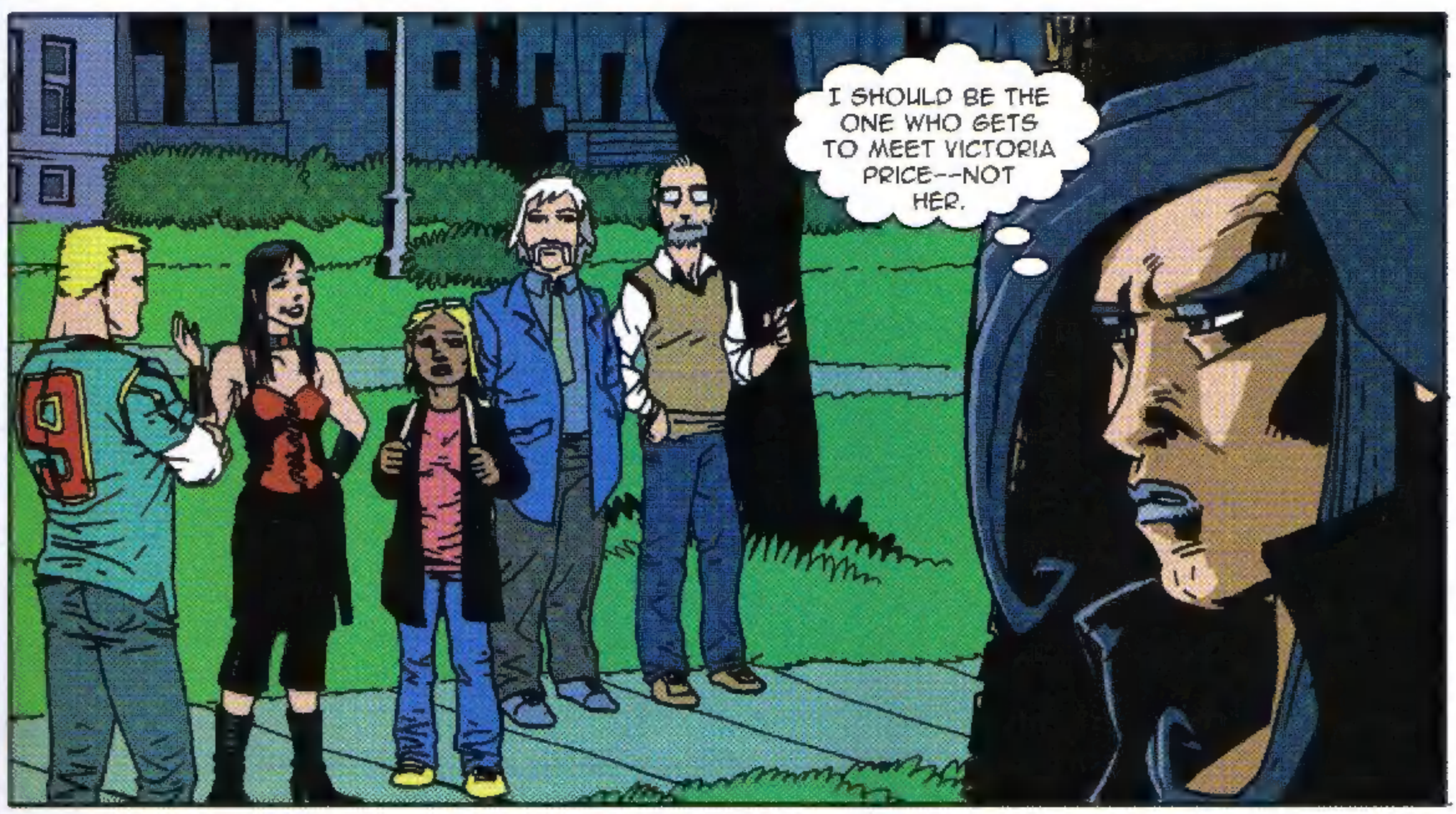
WONDER WHY EVERYONE THINKS WE'RE WEIRD?
'CAUSE WE'RE IN A CEMETERY AT NIGHT, DRESSED LIKE VAMPIRES? SEEMS PERFECTLY NORMAL TO ME.

DAYS LATER AT THE LOCAL BOOKSTORE...
HEY, CHECK IT OUT!
WIN AN EVENING WITH THE QUEEN OF HORROR
VICTORIA PRICE
VICTORIA PRICE
WIN AN EVENING WITH THE QUEEN OF HORROR, VICTORIA PRICE, AT HER MANSION.
OH, I'M SO GOING TO WIN THIS!
I KNEW GOING TO COLLEGE WOULD EVENTUALLY PAY OFF.

A MONTH LATER...
VICTORIA PRICE'S WEB-SITE IS ANNOUNCING THE CONTEST WINNER IN TWO SECONDS...
IT CAN'T BE..! IT'S ME! I WON!
VOID

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY HAPPY FOR ME, SYBIL.
SPEECHLESS.
JUST THINK, IN TWO WEEKS I'LL BE MEETING MY FAVORITE WRITER IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

AS THE WEEK WORE ON...
LOOK AT HER, TELLING ANY-ONE WHO'LL LISTEN ABOUT WINNING THE CONTEST.


I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO GETS TO MEET VICTORIA PRICE--NOT HER.

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY THAT I COULD GO THAT NIGHT INSTEAD OF TANITH.

HMM...WHAT IF TANITH WAS TOO WICKED SICK TO GO? NAH, THAT WITCH WOULD GO EVEN IF SHE HAD PNEUMONIA AND A TEMPERATURE OF 110.
WHAT IF TANITH HAD SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT OR EVEN WORSE? BUT WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF THAT HAPPENING?
HMM... MAYBE I COULD GIVE FATE A LITTLE PUSH? MAYBE EVEN A GREAT BIG SHOVE?

I CAN ALWAYS GET ANOTHER FRIEND, BUT MEETING MY FAVORITE WRITER IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY. WHAT IF TANITH SUDDENLY JUST 'VANISHED'? BUT WHAT WOULD I DO WITH HER BODY?
I KNOW, I KNOW! IT'S PERFECT! IT'S SO OBVIOUS I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T THINK OF THIS SOONER!
PROBLEM SOLVED. HEH. NOW I CAN FINALLY REST IN PEACE.

FINALLY...
I'M SO EXCITED, TOMORROW IS THE BIG DAY!
LIKE I COULD FORGET ABOUT THAT? C'MON, LET'S GO TO OUR SPECIAL PLACE AND CELEBRATE!
I'M KIND OF TIRED. I THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT AN EARLY NIGHT.
BUT WE HAVE TO GO! I, UH, MEAN, IT'S OUR RITUAL.
TALES FROM THE CRYPT
OH, YOU'RE SO SWEET. ALL RIGHT. BUT LET'S MAKE IT QUICK TONIGHT.
OH, IT'LL BE VERY QUICK. I GUARANTEE IT.

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE CEMETERY...
TO QUOTE THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS IN *COME DIE WITH ME*, "THE SWEETNESS OF VICTORY IS INFINITELY MORE DESIRABLE THAN THE BITTER AFTERTASTE OF DEFEAT."
MY FEET AREN'T BITTER.

A FARTHING FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, MY DEAREST SYBIL.
JUST THE USUAL, DEAREST TANITH; I PONDER THE ABSURDITIES OF LIFE...
...AND YOUR IMMINENT DEATH.

YOU, MY DEAREST SYBIL, ARE A RARE COMMODITY INDEED, IN THIS VEIL OF TEARS. A TRUE FRIEND.
AS ARE YOU, OH YE OF MUCH FAITH.
NOW, WHERE IS THAT SHOVEL I HID HERE EARLIER? AH!

BE STILL MY HEART! OVER THERE IN THE SHADOWS, IS THAT MY BELOVED, THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS?
WHERE, DEAREST SYBIL? I SEE HIM NOT.

CRACKKKK!

ALAS, POOR TANITH, YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO TRUSTING. I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL PANGS OF SYMPATHY FOR YOU.

BUT THEY PASSED LIKE A GUST OF SUMMER WIND.

SINCE, DEAR FRIEND, NO ONE HAS BEEN BURIED IN THIS OLD CEMETERY SINCE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT YOU WILL BE NOTICED.

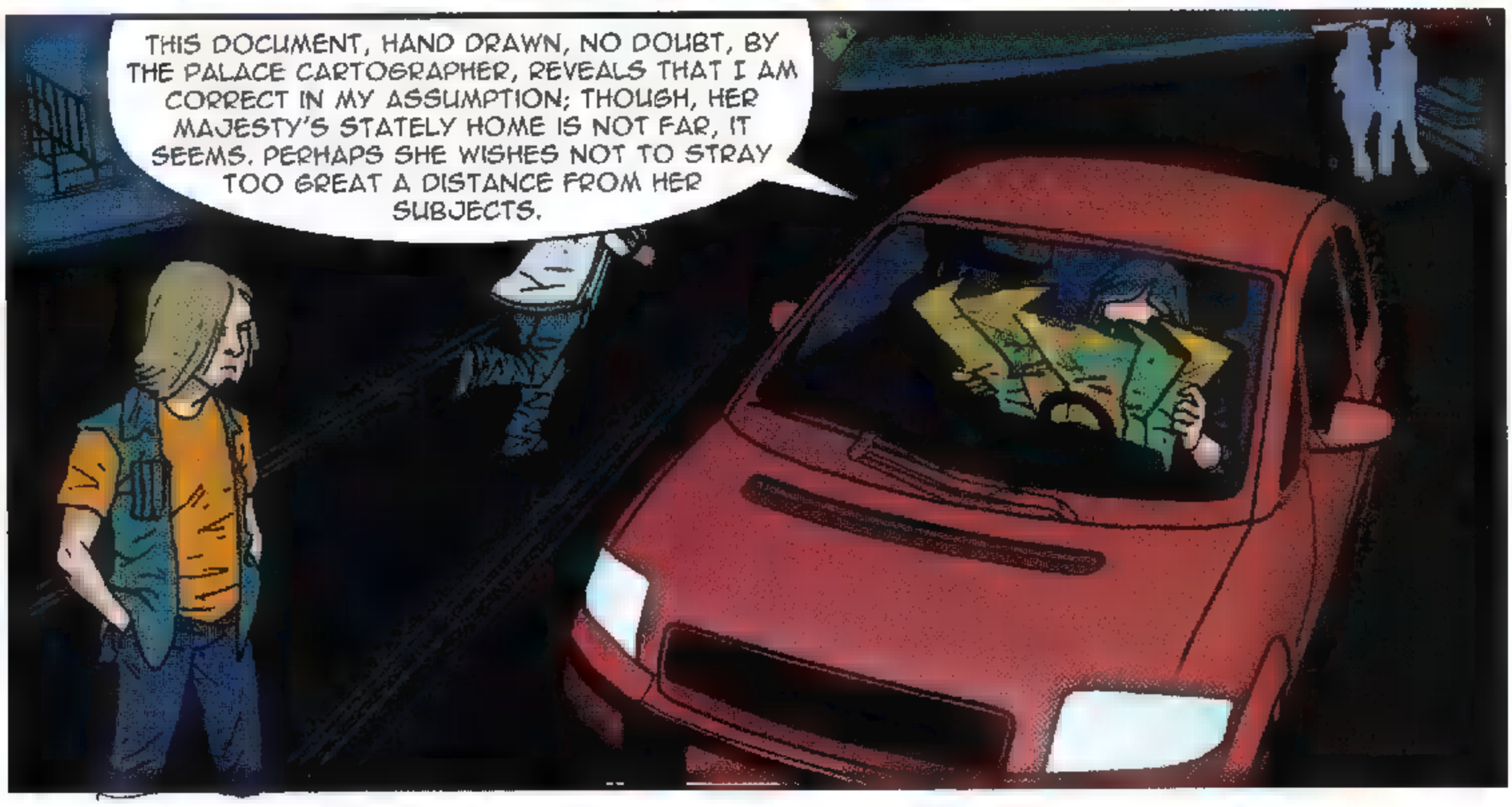
WELL, THAT'S IT, TANITH, DEAR. SORRY I CAN'T PROVIDE YOU WITH A SUITABLE GRAVESTONE, BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE DELICATENESS OF THE SITUATION.

THE NEXT DAY, SYBIL, ARMED WITH TANITH'S I.D., BEGINS THE DRIVE TO BOSTON.
WISH ME LUCK, DEAR TANITH, WHEREVER YOU ARE. AS THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS SAID, IN *CONNOISSEUR OF BLOOD*, WHEN HE DROVE INTO BOSTON, TO MEET THE ILL-FATED ELIZABETH VANDERVEER, THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE...

"IN THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY, I SAVOR THE ANTICIPATION AS IF IT IS A FINE WINE TO BE IMBIBED IN VERY SMALL SIPS."

HOURS LATER...
"BEHOLD," SAID THE VAMPIRE DUBOIS, "THE LIGHTS OF THE CITY BECKON ME LIKE THE SIRENS OF ULYSSES. BUT I FEAR THEM NOT, FOR I AM THE ONE WHO SHALL TRIUMPH."

AND NOW TO SEEK OUT THE ROYAL RESIDENCE OF MY QUEEN. CERTAINLY, HER REGAL MANOR IS NOT AMIDST THE HUMBLE DWELLINGS OF COMMONERS.


THIS DOCUMENT, HAND DRAWN, NO DOUBT, BY THE PALACE CARTOGRAPHER, REVEALS THAT I AM CORRECT IN MY ASSUMPTION; THOUGH, HER MAJESTY'S STATELY HOME IS NOT FAR, IT SEEMS. PERHAPS SHE WISHES NOT TO STRAY TOO GREAT A DISTANCE FROM HER SUBJECTS.

MY HEART IS ALL AFLUTTER! YONDER IS THE CASTLE OF SHE WHOM I HAVE PLEDGED MY ETERNAL ALLEGIENCE TO! AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT! YOU COULD FIT MY WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THERE AND STILL HAVE ROOM FOR THE MALL AND TWO PARKING LOTS!

DUM DUM TA DUM
TA TA DUM TA
DUM DUM DUM!

YES?
I'M TANITH, THAT IS, TINA BENSON.
YES, PLEASE COME IN, MS. BENSON. MISS PRICE IS EXPECT-ING YOU.
YOU'RE A LITTLE EARLY, MS. BENSON. MISS PRICE WILL BE WITH YOU IN A FEW MOMENTS, SHE'S JUST PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A CHAPTER FOR HER NEW NOVEL.
THAT IS SO WAY COOL! ER... I MEAN, OF COURSE. I SHALL PATIENTLY AWAIT HER PRESENCE.
LOOK AT ALL THESE AWESOME BOOKS ON VAMPIRES! AND ARE THOSE VIALS OF BLOOD? COOL.

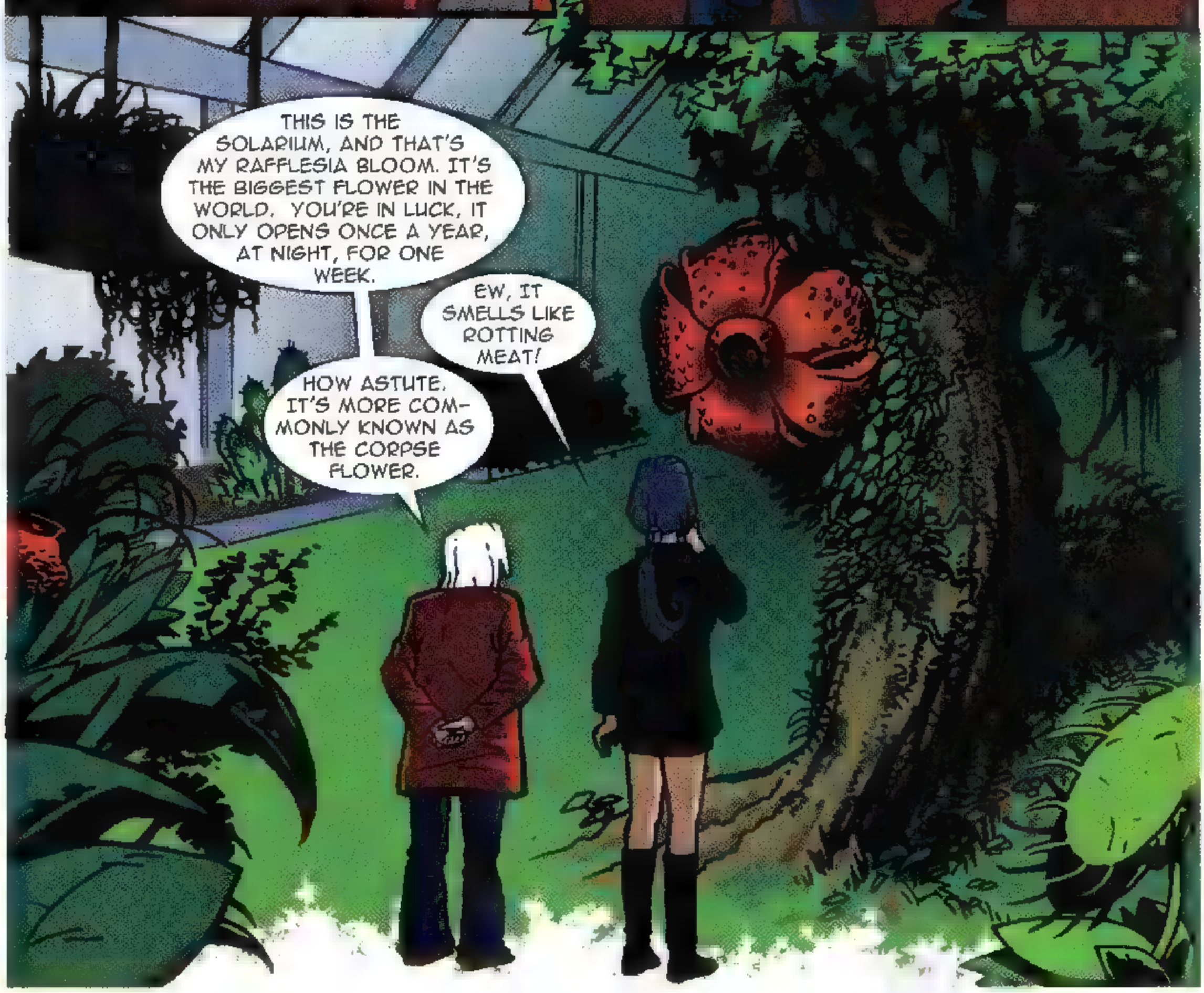
A LITTLE LATER...
MISS PRICE WILL SEE YOU NOW, IN THE LIBRARY.
ULP! THIS IS IT! MY QUEEN AWAITS!

THESE PEOPLE LOOK EVEN CREEPIER THAN MY RELATIVES.

COME IN. YOU MUST BE MS. BENSON, THE ILLUSTRIOUS WINNER OF MY LITTLE CONTEST. I'M VICTORIA PRICE.
WELL, OF COURSE YOU ARE! THAT IS, UM, I'M SYB-- I MEAN, TAN--, TINA...I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

WHY, YOU'RE POSITIVELY SHAKING, MY DEAR! THERE'S NO REASON TO BE NERVOUS.
BUT, I'M YOUR BIGGEST--UH, I'M AN ARDENT ADMIRER OF YOUR LITERARY PROWESS.

HOW DARLING. COME WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU A BIT OF MY HOME.
A GUIDED TOUR! I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN!


THIS IS THE SOLARIUM, AND THAT'S MY RAFFLESIA BLOOM. IT'S THE BIGGEST FLOWER IN THE WORLD. YOU'RE IN LUCK, IT ONLY OPENS ONCE A YEAR, AT NIGHT, FOR ONE WEEK.
EW, IT SMELLS LIKE ROTTING MEAT!
HOW ASTUTE. IT'S MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE CORPSE FLOWER.

THIS IS WHERE I KEEP MY AMPHIBIANS.

CUTE FROGS.

EACH ONE HAS ENOUGH POISON IN THEM TO KILL ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE. IT'S WHAT INDIGENOUS TRIBES USE ON THEIR BLOWGUN DARTS.

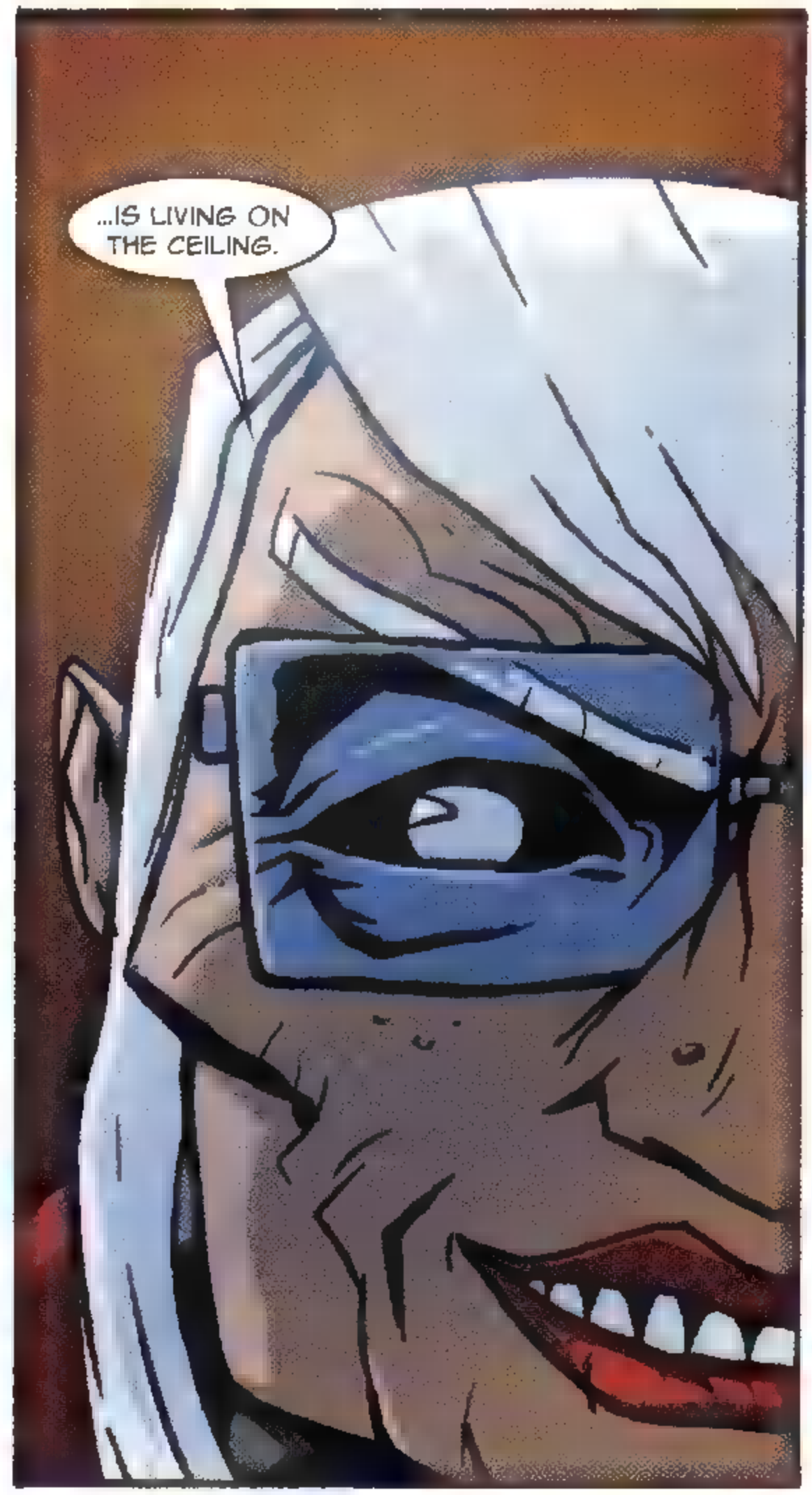
THERE'S NOTHING HERE, IT'S EMPTY.

CLICK!
WOOSH!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND. WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S SIMPLE, MS. BENSON...

YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THE CONTEST WINNER BECAUSE, AFTER A BACKGROUND CHECK, IT WAS DETERMINED YOU HAVE NO LIVING RELATIVES.

BUT, BUT... I'M NOT...



I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
SILLY GIRL! THEY ONLY COME OUT--
CLICK!
...IN THE DARK!

I PROMISED MY VAMPIRE BATS A SPECIAL MEAL TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCHING OF MY NEW BOOK. IT'S A TREAT I GIVE THEM ONCE A YEAR. IT SEEMS TO BRING ME LUCK.
AND I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY TO FEED THEM LATELY, AND THEY'RE OH, SO HUNGRY.
MY, MY, ALL THAT SCREAMING. I DO BELIEVE I'M GETTING ANOTHER IDEA FOR A NEW BOOK. I SO LOVE THE CREATIVE PROCESS. DON'T YOU?
END

WHAT A BATTY ENDING!
>GROAN<
YES, SYBIL PAID QUITE A PRICE TO MEET MRS. PRICE! JUST AS YOU'RE PAYING THE PRICE OF EATING TOO MANY CHOCOLATE STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN BALLS!
IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS THE OLD VAULT-KEEPER VAULTING ABOUT!
JUST CHECK OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO LITTLE JIMMY WHEN HE SKIPS BREAKFAST, IN THIS SHOCKER I CALL...
Kid TESTED MOTHER APPROVED!

WOW! AN "A" ON YOUR SPELLING TEST...
...HITTING A HOME RUN IN GYM CLASS...
... LANDING THE LEAD IN THE SCHOOL PLAY...
...AND A BLUE RIBBON AT THE SCIENCE FAIR!
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YOU MIGHT BE THE GREATEST KID IN THE WORLD!

AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE I'M YOUR MOTHER.
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I DON'T DESERVE SUCH A SWEET LITTLE GUY.
AW, MA
I HOPE BECKY AND BUDDY KNOW WHAT A GREAT GUY THEY HAVE TO PAL AROUND WITH.
AW, GEE WHIZ. CUT IT OUT.
OH, NO, I FORGOT TO BUY MILK LAST NIGHT. DO YOU MIND EATING YOUR CHOCOLATE STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN BALLS DRY?
EWWW.
DRY CEREAL SUCKS, MOM.
I'LL SKIP BREAKFAST.

BUT THEY'VE GOT THE FRUITIEST CHOCOLATE TASTE IN THE LAND. IT'S GOT THAT WILD X-TREME FLAVOR BLAST THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!
IT'S THE MOST FRUITASTICALLY SUGAR BOMBED SWEETNESS EX-PLOSION EVER!
NO DICE, MA. I CAN'T EAT 'EM DRY.
YOU ATE THEM DRY ALL THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE. WHY, YOU'VE EATEN CHOCOLATE STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN BALLS EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE...
...WELL SINCE YOU'VE HAD TEETH.
MOM, I'LL BE OKAY. I DON'T NEED TO EAT THEM EVERY DAY.
JIMMY, YOU NEED A WELL-BALANCED BREAKFAST WITH THE SWEETNESS YOU CRAVE MELDED WITH THE VITAMINS, NUTRI-ENTS, AND MINERALS YOU NEED FOR STRONG BONES, A WINNING SMILE AND PEP AND ...AND VIGOR!
VIGOR-- YOU NEED VIGOR!!
YES...YES, YOU DO!
WHY AREN'T YOU GOING CRAZY WITH THE CHOCORIFFIC FRUIT SPASMS?
BYE, MOM. SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL.

STOP IT, MA. YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT.
YOU NEED YOUR BREAKFAST. JUST EAT ONE!

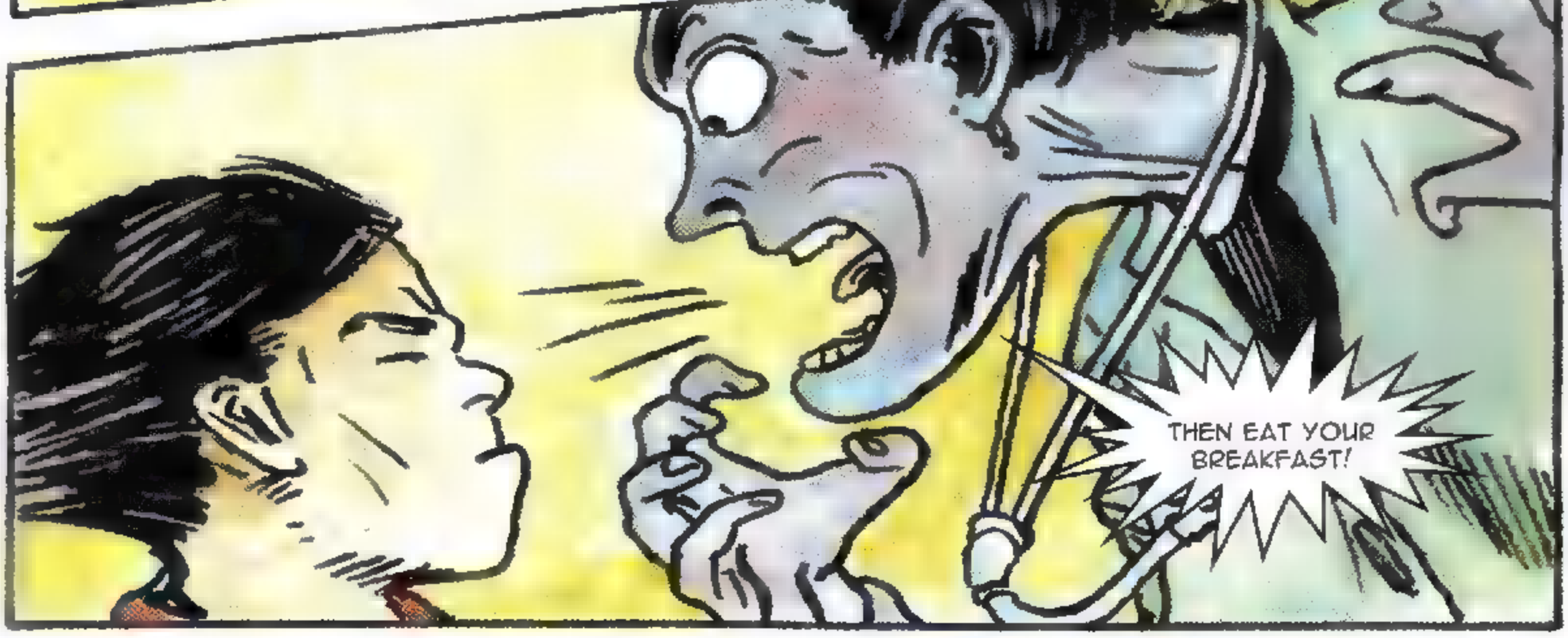
I GOTTA GO TA SCHOOL, MA. WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
WAIT...
LISTEN...
YOU DON'T KNOW...
WHAT'LL...
HAPPEN...
YOU'LL...
---...
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

>SQUAAAWK<
PICK UP, MRS. STEVENSON.
>SQUAAAWK<
I SEE.
RIGHT AWAY.
YES, YES, EVERY BOY NEEDS TO START THEIR DAY THE HEALTHY WAY.
GO DIRECTLY TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE. DO NOT STOP AT THE REST ROOM. DO NOT STOP AT THE WATER FOUNTAIN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
HALL PASS
YES, MA'AM.

C'MON IN, JIMMY. HAVE A SEAT. WE NEVER CHAT AND YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT KID.
I'D HATE TO LET THE YEAR GO BY WITHOUT A LITTLE FACE TIME.
THANK YOU, SIR.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ASKING YOUR MOTHER WHAT YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST CEREAL IS.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.
SO, EAT UP, JIMMY! THE EARLY BIRD NEEDS HIS WORM. CAN'T FLY TO THE MOON WITHOUT FUEL. ONE THING EVERY BOY NEEDS IS A GOOD NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST.
NO THANK YOU, SIR.
I'M REALLY NOT HUNGRY AND LUNCH IS SOON ANYHOW.

OH, BUT JIMMY, YOU SIMPLY MUST. A GROWING BOY NEEDS VITAMINS, AND MINERALS. HE NEEDS IRON AND POTASSIUM AND VITAMIN C AND...AND...STUFF.
LOOK, I *SAID* I WASN'T HUNGRY.

LET'S QUIT THE MOLLYCODDLING.
SKIPPING BREAKFAST WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOUR TENDER YOUNG METABOLISM AND MAKE YOU MORE LIKELY TO GET FAT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET FAT DO YOU?
DO YOU?
NO.


THEN EAT YOUR BREAKFAST!

NO.

RUTH, CALM DOWN. YOU DON'T WANT TO AGITATE THE BOY.
MMM. HE'S YOUR PROBLEM, BILL.
I PUT MY TWO CENTS IN ALREADY--AND YOU KNOW MY STANCE ON THIS *ISSUE*.

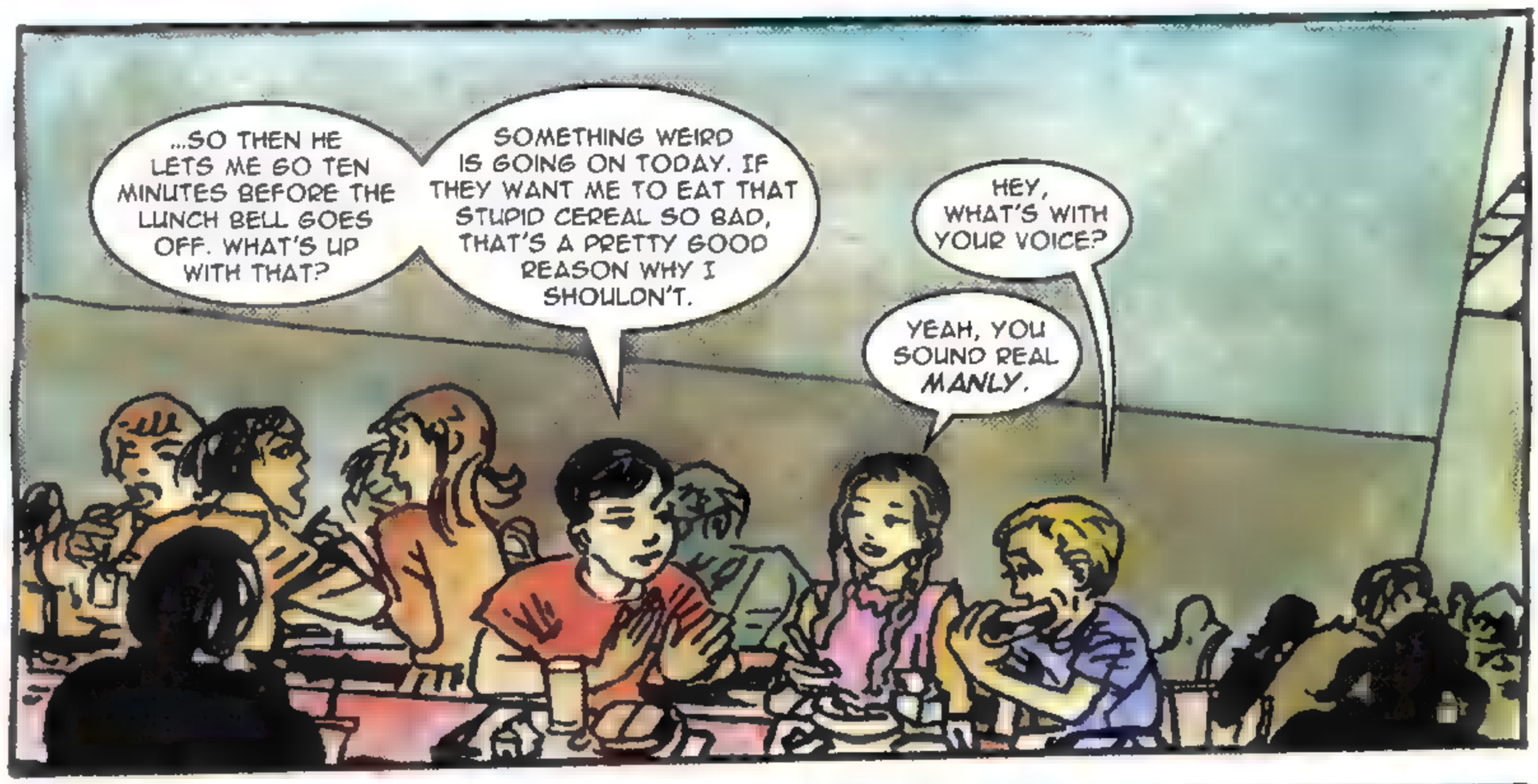
WHEN IT HITS THE FAN, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME.
BEEP BEEP BOOP

HELLO?
SORRY, JIMMY, I NEED TO TAKE THIS.
I'LL BE BACK IN FIVE AND THAT BREAKFAST BETTER BE GONE, MISTER.

HMMMM.

WOW, YOU CLEANED YOUR PLATE...EVEN THE ORANGE PEEL! GREAT SHOW, JIMMY! YOU CAN GO BACK TO CLASS NOW.
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TALK?

WE CAN CHAT SOME OTHER TIME.
JUST REMEMBER TO EAT A HEALTHY, WELL-BALANCED BREAKFAST EVERY DAY, OKAY?
O-KAY!!


...SO THEN HE LETS ME GO TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE LUNCH BELL GOES OFF. WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON TODAY. IF THEY WANT ME TO EAT THAT STUPID CEREAL SO BAD, THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR VOICE?
YEAH, YOU SOUND REAL MANLY.

GOOD LORD! >CHOKE<
>GASP!< JIMMY? ARE YOU OKAY?
JIMMY?

YEEAAARRGGGH! THE PAIN!
HELP! MRS. THOMPSON! HELP! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH JIMMY!

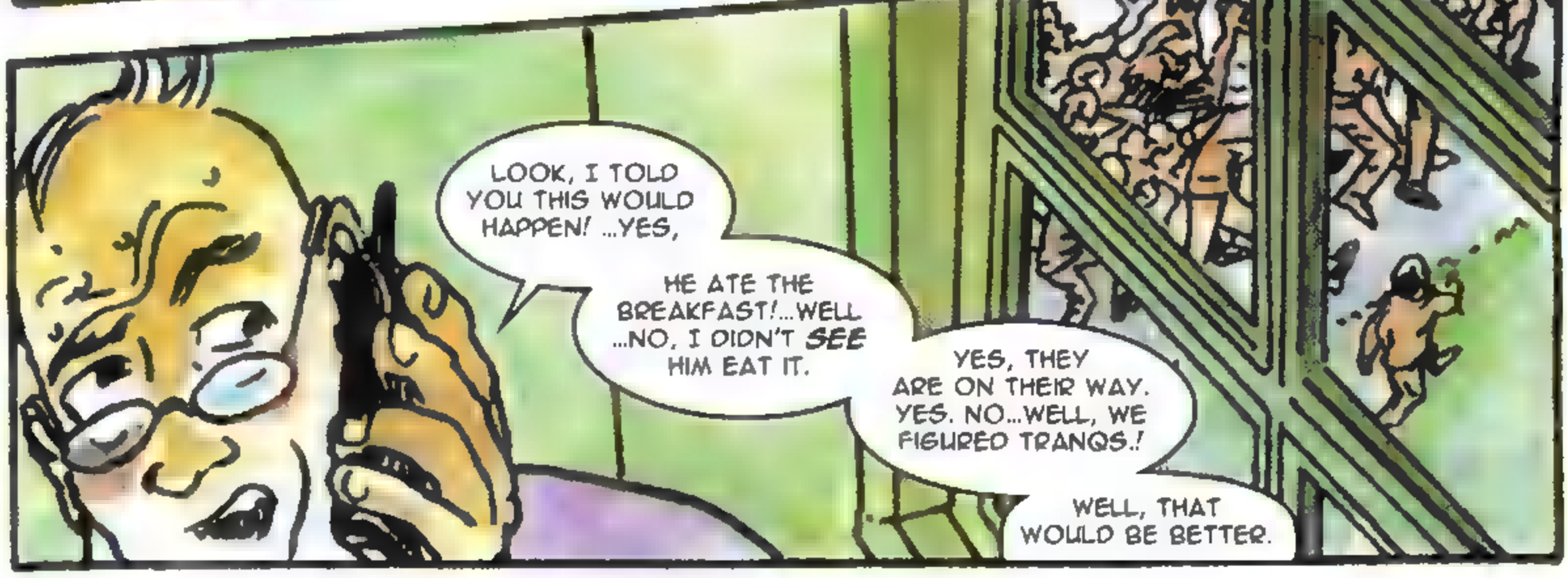
GRRRARR. IT...BUUURNS!

GRRAAH!
LEMME THROUGH! OUTTA THE WAY, YA BRATS.
SMASH!

WRR
MYO
I'M OUTTA HERE!
BEST BUDS OR NOT, THIS IS TOO MUCH!
BBB
NO, NO!!
RRRIP

BRRRWARRR!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!
JIMMY'S GONE BANANAS!!!

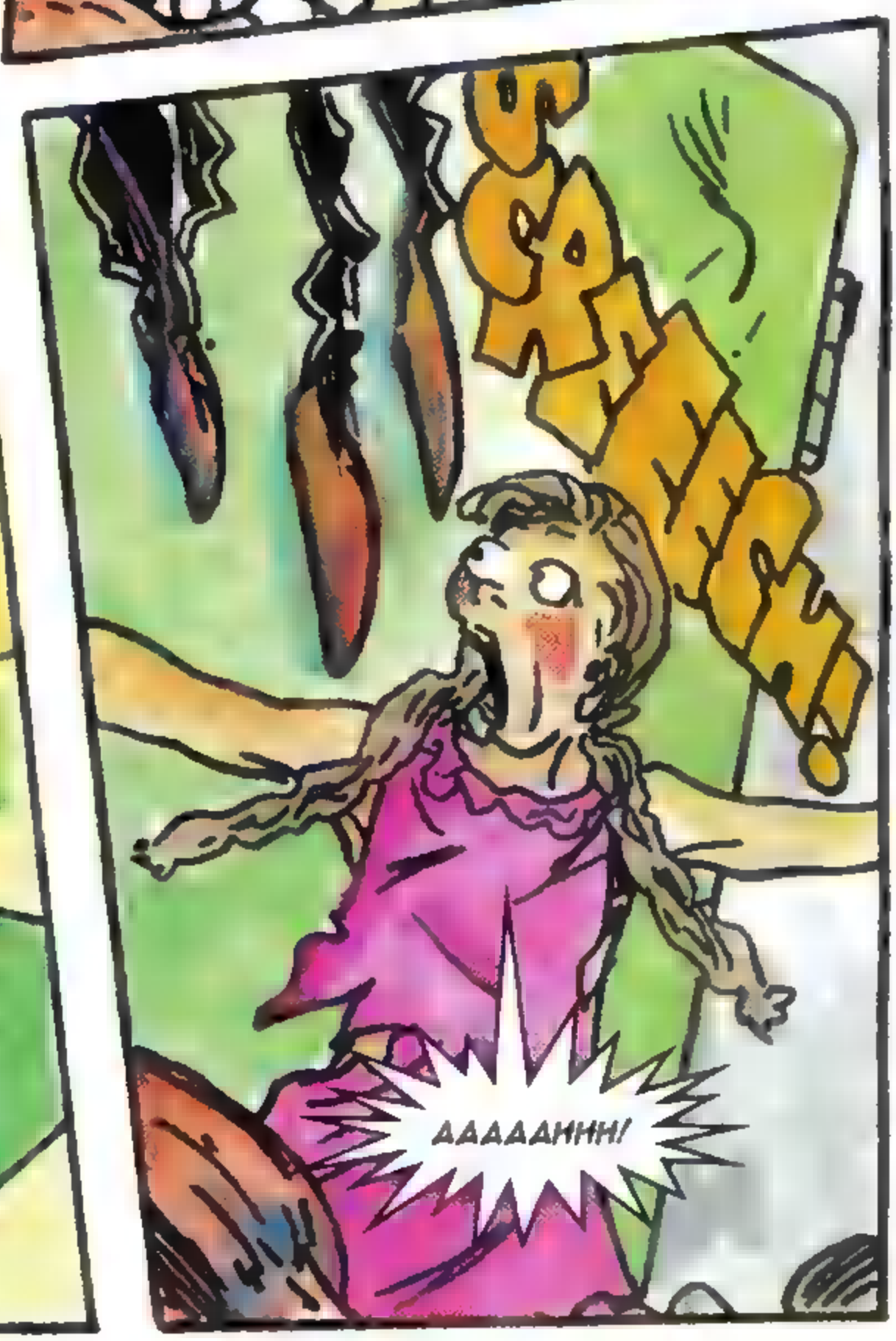
BLARRGGH!
MEAT
NO! GET AWAY!
BE-KEEEEE!


LOOK, I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN! ...YES,
HE ATE THE BREAKFAST!...WELL ...NO, I DIDN'T SEE HIM EAT IT.
YES, THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY. YES. NO...WELL, WE FIGURED TRANQS.!
WELL, THAT WOULD BE BETTER.

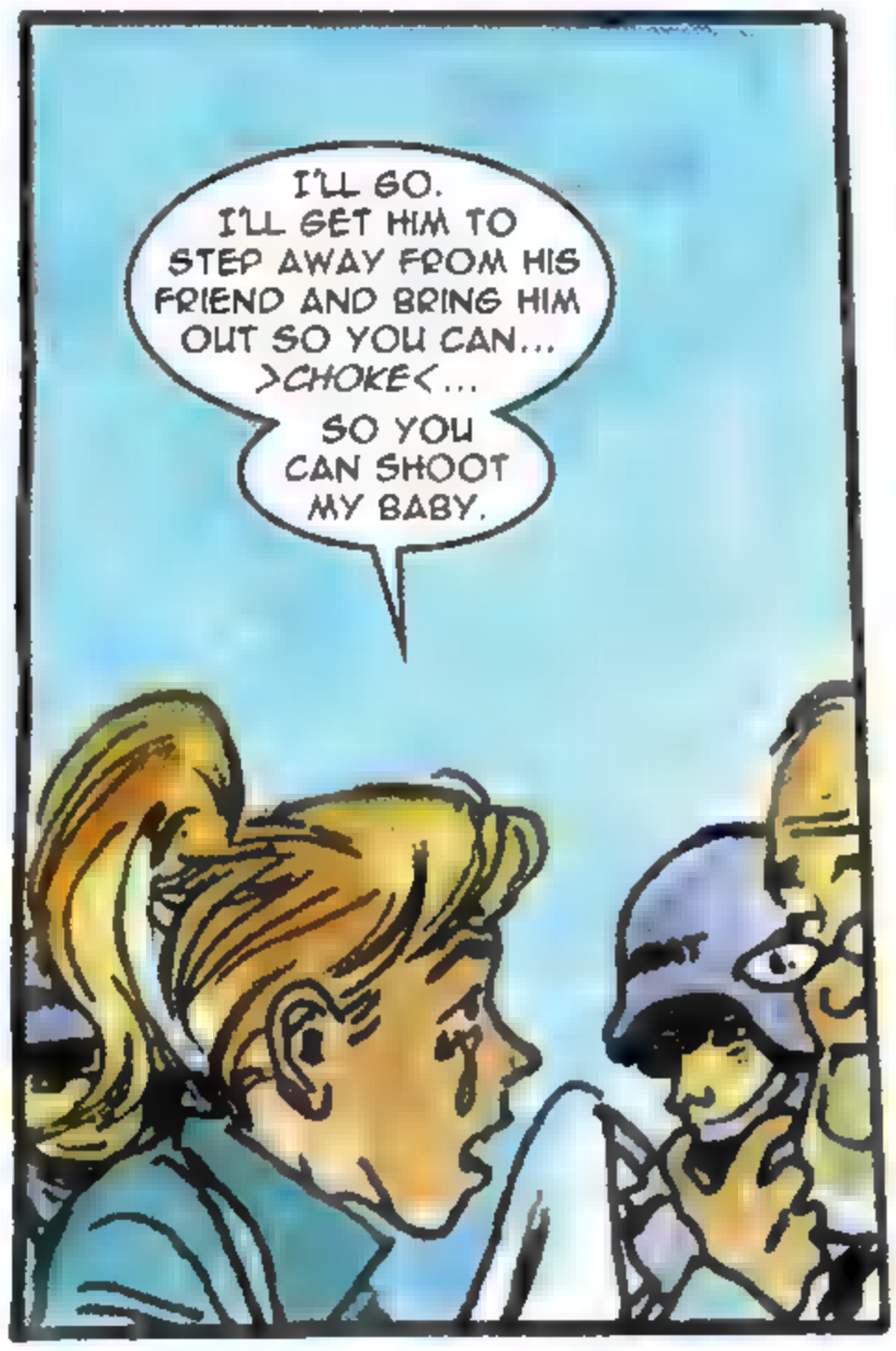
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
JIMMY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
CHK

WHAM
GROSS! MEAT! I'M GOING TO BE SICK...

BRAPPLE BARGLE
BLATHER
BLAFF!


AAAAAHHH!

--DENIES REPORTS OF A STUDENT SHOOTER...
AMID CHAOS AND TRAGEDY IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE PUBLIC ASKS "WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN?"
WE DON'T KNOW THE SITUATION WITH BECKY.
SEEING YOU MIGHT MAKE HIM FLIP AND ATTACK HER.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ONE CHILD!
NOT A ONE.
WE NEED A DIVERSION TO GET HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN SO I CAN DELIVER A CLEAN SHOT.


I'LL GO. I'LL GET HIM TO STEP AWAY FROM HIS FRIEND AND BRING HIM OUT SO YOU CAN... >CHOKE<...
SO YOU CAN SHOOT MY BABY.

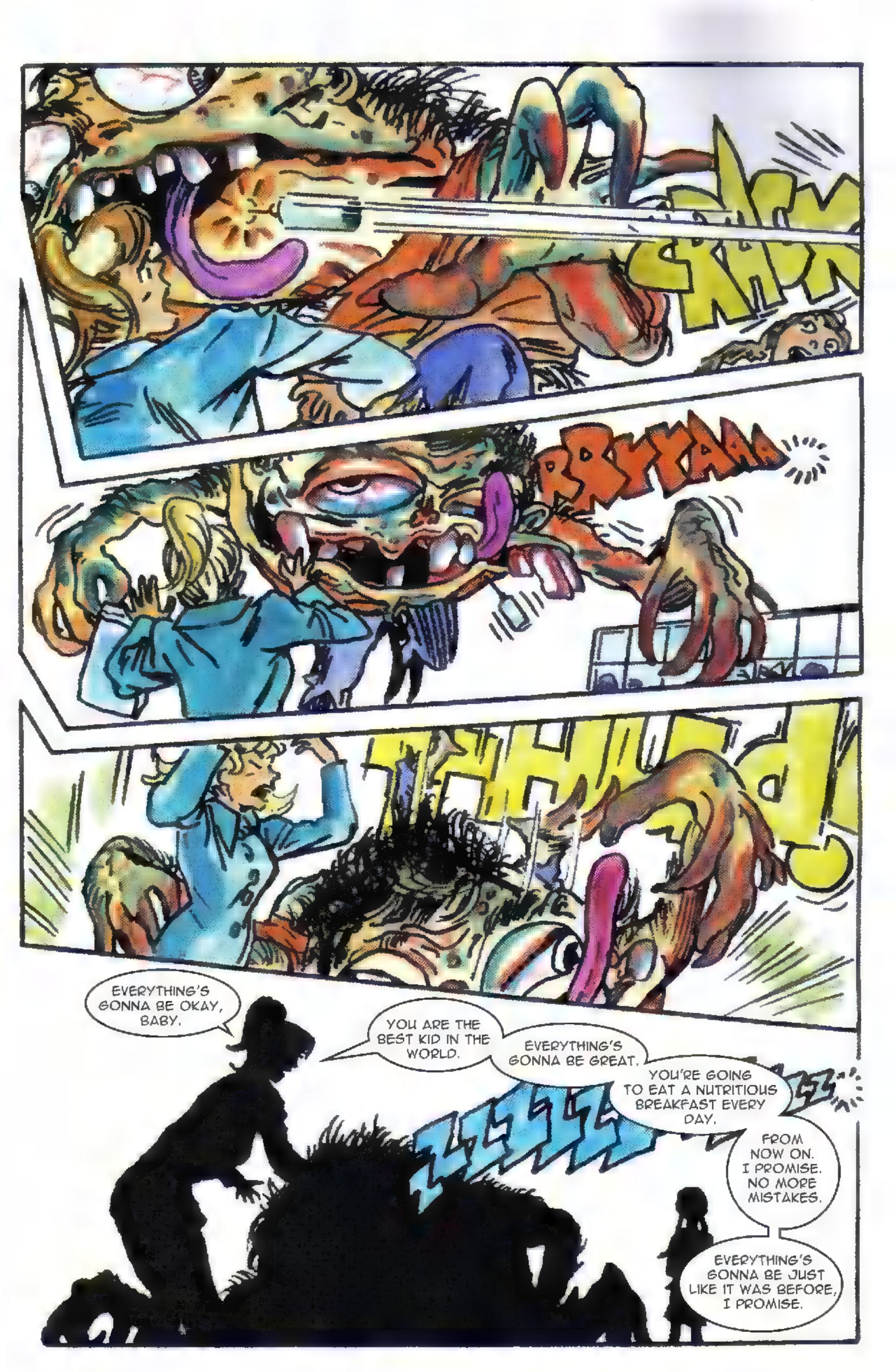
LADY, THAT THING IS NOBODY'S BABY.
IT'LL ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND ANYWAY.
SWAT
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. NONE OF YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND. HE IS A WONDERFUL BOY. HEALTHY, INTELLIGENT, STRONG...

WELL, HE'S ALL GROWN UP NOW.
SWAT

AAARRRGH!
STAY BACK, JIMMY. STAY BACK! I'M SORRY I DANCED WITH BUDDY AT THE SPRING FLING, BUT I'LL HIT YOU IF I GOTTA!

EEYAAA
GRRYRRR!
STOP!
OH, JIMMY. WE WERE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS. WHY?
PLEASE, JIMMY. PLEASE STOP THIS AND BE THE REAL YOU AGAIN. WE LOVE YOU, JIMMY. THE WAY YOU WERE. NOT LIKE THIS.

JIMMY.
COME TO MOMMY, JIMMY. MOMMY LOVES YOU, JIMMY.
MOMMY LOVES YOU, JIMMY.
GGRRYYYRRRRR
MOMMY LOVES YOU. MOMMY LOVES YOU.
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I DON'T DESERVE SUCH A SWEET LITTLE GUY.
THOOOK!


SKRR
RRYYAAA
HHHH!
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OKAY, BABY.
YOU ARE THE BEST KID IN THE WORLD.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE GREAT.
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT A NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST EVERY DAY.
FROM NOW ON. I PROMISE. NO MORE MISTAKES.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE JUST LIKE IT WAS BEFORE, I PROMISE.

SO. CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHY BREAKFAST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY?

JIMMY AGAIN. YOU SEEM TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS TODAY. ONE DAY IN THE SCHOOL AND YOU'RE ALREADY RUNNING CIRCLES AROUND US ALL...

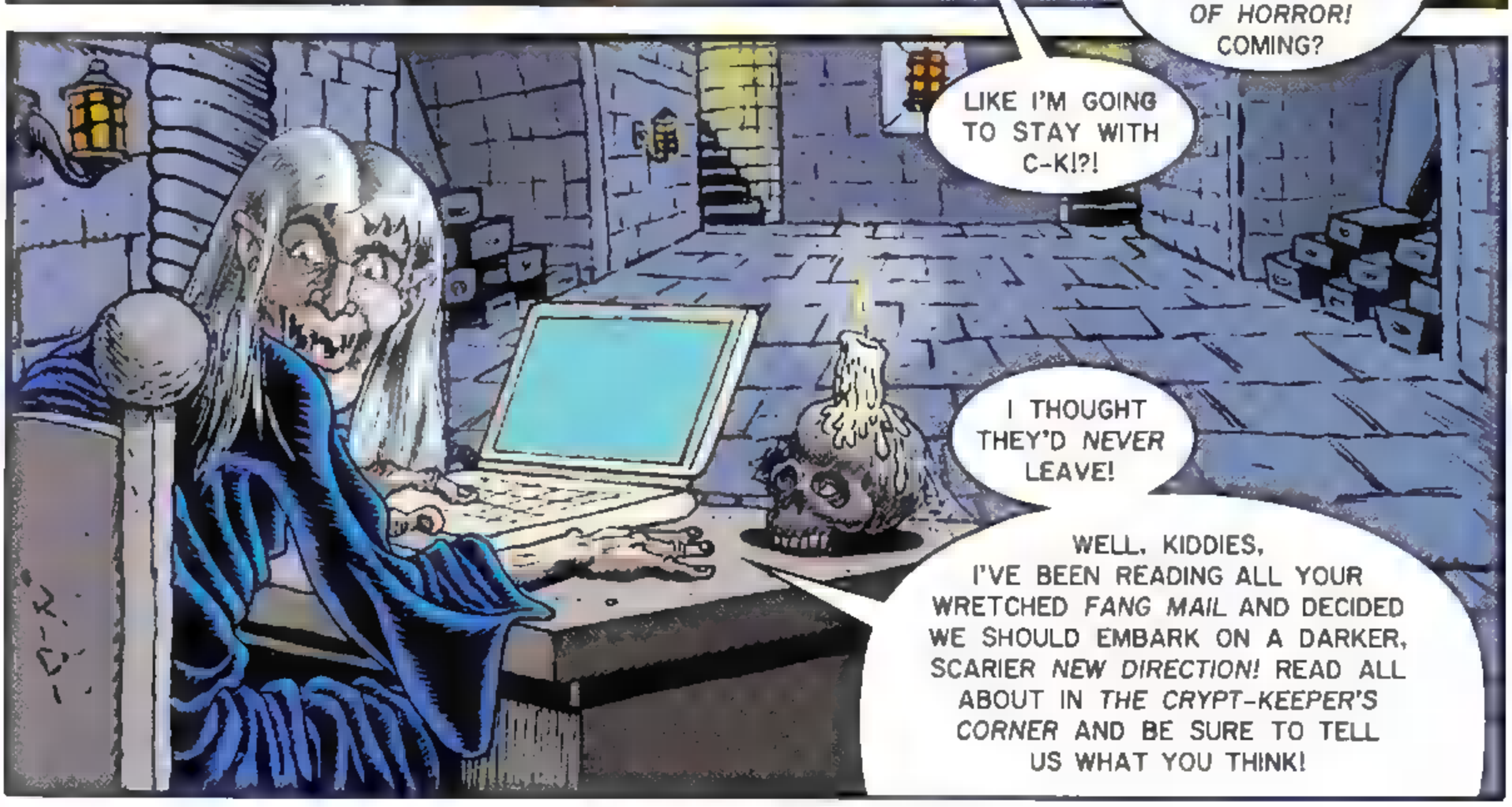
...YES, JIMMY. YOU ARE CERTAINLY A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

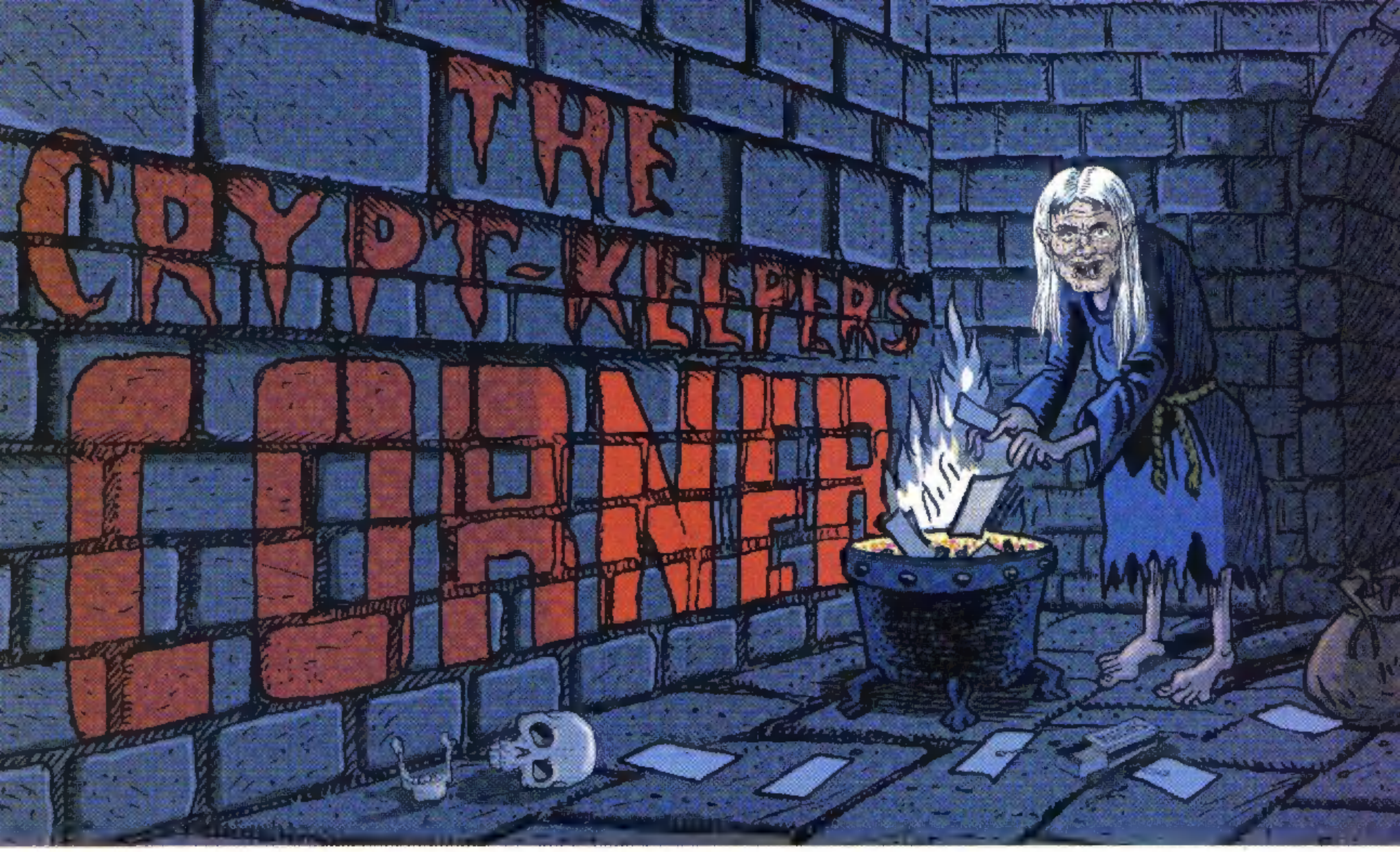
END?

HA! AND THEY SAY WE'RE A BAD INFLUENCE ON KIDS!
HOO-HAH!

>GASP!< GOOD LORD! I'M ALL OUT OF >CHOKE< CHOCOLATE STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN BALLS!
HEE HEE!

LISTEN, V-K, YOU EAT *TOO MUCH* OF THAT STUFF! KEEP IT UP AND YOU'LL NEED TO JOIN *JOHNNY CRAIG'S!*
I'M *OUTTA* HERE. I GOT MORE BACK AT MY *VAULT OF HORROR!* COMING?


LIKE I'M GOING TO STAY WITH C-K!?!
I THOUGHT THEY'D *NEVER* LEAVE!
WELL, KIDDIES, I'VE BEEN READING ALL YOUR WRETCHED *FANG MAIL* AND DECIDED WE SHOULD EMBARK ON A DARKER, SCARIER *NEW DIRECTION!* READ ALL ABOUT IN *THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER* AND BE SURE TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



Hidee-ho, horror-fans! It's me again, the original ol' Crypt-Keeper. Welcome to more CONDESCENDING CRITICISM, mixed in with a dollop of MINDLESS PRAISE , for our previous inconsistent issues. Let's hear it for the FEARLESS FANS willing to brave the BITING WIT and CUTTING COMEBACKS for which this politically incorrect letters column is becoming INFAMOUS!

Now, kiddies, this is where I'd normally reveal the results of your votes on TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4, but the SHOCKING TRUTH is, at presstime we still haven't received any! So, it's still up in the air what you think about last issue's TERROR TALES – "CRYSTAL CLEAR" by Don McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris Noeth. For you ROTTING READERS living in the United States, this is an election year, so it's your DUTY to VOTE! We'll give you one more chance, but when TALES FROM THE CRYPT #6 hits the stands, the voting on #4 will be OFFICIALLY OVER!

If you somehow missed our FRIGHTENING fourth issue, the PENNY-PINCHERS over at Papercutz have already collected "CRYSTAL CLEAR" and other FEAR-FABLES into paperback and hardcover collections entitled TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2 "CAN YOU FEAR ME NOW?" You'll have to wait for the third CRYPT collection, entitled "Zombielicious" for "Extra Life" to be collected, though! But TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2, along with TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild!" should be on shelves of better BOOkstores now.

Okay, just wanted to say how much I like the "TALES FROM THE CRYPT" comics. Okay, I like the stories, although the art needs to look more like the old comics from the fifties, 'cause I liked the way it looked back then. I really didn't read the old comics, I only saw that art on the first season DVD. But keep up the good work on the comics; also maybe stay with the tradition of those comics.

Your Fan,
Ethan

Let us know what you think of our most recent issues, Ethan. Has the artwork taken a turn for the WORSE or are you DIGGIN' the NEW DIRECTION newcomer Noeth, rotten ol' Romberger, and even the ever-popular Mr. Exes have taken?

Subject: I love Tales from the Crypt!!!!

Hi, you deadheads! I love the comic. I was reading issue #3 and I was wondering where you got the idea for a painting of a zombie Mona Lisa? Can't wait for the next issue! Can I order a copy of issue #1 from you?

Sean Clagg
Myrtle Beach, SC

Sorry, Sean, but we're SOLD OUT of TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1. You can order the paperback or hardcover collections that feature both stories from #1. And you'll have to read "A BODY OF WORK" by Marc Bilgrey and Mr. Exes to learn the SECRET behind ZOMBIE MONA!!

Dear Crypt Keeper,

I thoroughly enjoyed the third issue. I feel I am in the minority, but in the end "A Murderin' Idol" eventually came out as my favorite. "And may I make a suggestion? Do something about that hair!" Hee, hee! How many demons do you see making suggestions? I have a feeling, though, that it will be beaten by "Slabbed!" because everybody loves it when comics make stories about comics. I appreciate the insight as to how the comics industry feels about this latest option of slabbing comics to preserve them, but make them completely unreadable. The blurb about #4 looks promising. Looking forward to #4,

Briony Coote,
Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Good to hear from you again, Briony! But it looks like it takes a while for our mad-mag to make its way to New Zealand, which is causing you to miss out on the voting. But take heart, (or take any organ of your choice!) "A MURDERIN' IDOL" did take top honors over "SLABBED!"

Dear Crypt Keeper,

It looks like you are getting revenge on Dr. Wertham and his "Seduction of the Innocent" which killed off the original title. You had a visitor called Wertham in #2 and your comment on "Slabbed": "It's juvenile delinquents such as Derrick that give comics a really bad name!" was unmistakable. Are you going to go the whole hog and have a story that makes a real dig at the old reactionary? If not, why don't you think about it?

Briony Coote
Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Back again, Briony? In CRYPT #2, I may have exclaimed "What the Wertham --?!" in a moment of TERROR, but rest assured (and in peace) that no visitor of that name has ever stepped foot in THE CRYPT OF TERROR!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

You were asking readers if the HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR should be revived as well. Well, I reckon the reason the Vault-Keeper and Old Witch keep goofing off is because they don't have a comic of their own. Therefore I think reviving those titles will be a good idea – if you feel the readership is strong enough.

Briony Coote
Lower Hutt, New Zealand

You again? Well, we'll need far more than one reader in Lower Hutt, New Zealand before we can even think about reviving HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR!

Dear Sir;

I am an avid collector of most comics. I do own a complete collection of EC Comics (originals), including a Gaines file copy of WAR AGAINST CRIME #10 9.8. Your attempt at a revival of EC is a great challenge. To me, the ECs were and still are the best books ever to be published. Most of those artists are now well-known and well-collected (very valuable in most cases). Williamson, Wood, Davis, Ghastly Ingels, etc. What I think needs to be done to be successful is "take" from the original format, rather than take an "Archie" approach to your revival. Attempt to do what the original format brought to the media – excellent art and stories. Then with the right formula, you can bring the whole sci-fi line back and horror. I have a vast knowledge of this business (I own BATMAN #1, SUPERMAN #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, etc.) and lots of EC original art. Try to move toward the original format. Hey, Al Williamson is still out there, so is Al Feldstein. I would like you to be very successful, but as of now your books are too tame. Granted, there are no Frazettas or Woods out there, but with the right approach you can be very successful.

Good luck.
Robert Metteis
Norwalk, CT

But, Bob, do you have a copy of PURE EVIL #1? So much for this issue's DIVISIVE DISCOURSE! Be here next issue for the story so SHOCKING we can't even reveal the title, as well as "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3. "Ignoble Rot" by Fred Van Lente and Steve Mannion, originally scheduled for this issue, has been rescheduled to appear in CRYPT #7.

Keep those emails and letters coming! Tell us what you thought of our NEW DIRECTION, which is FORWARD TO THE PAST! Send your letters to:

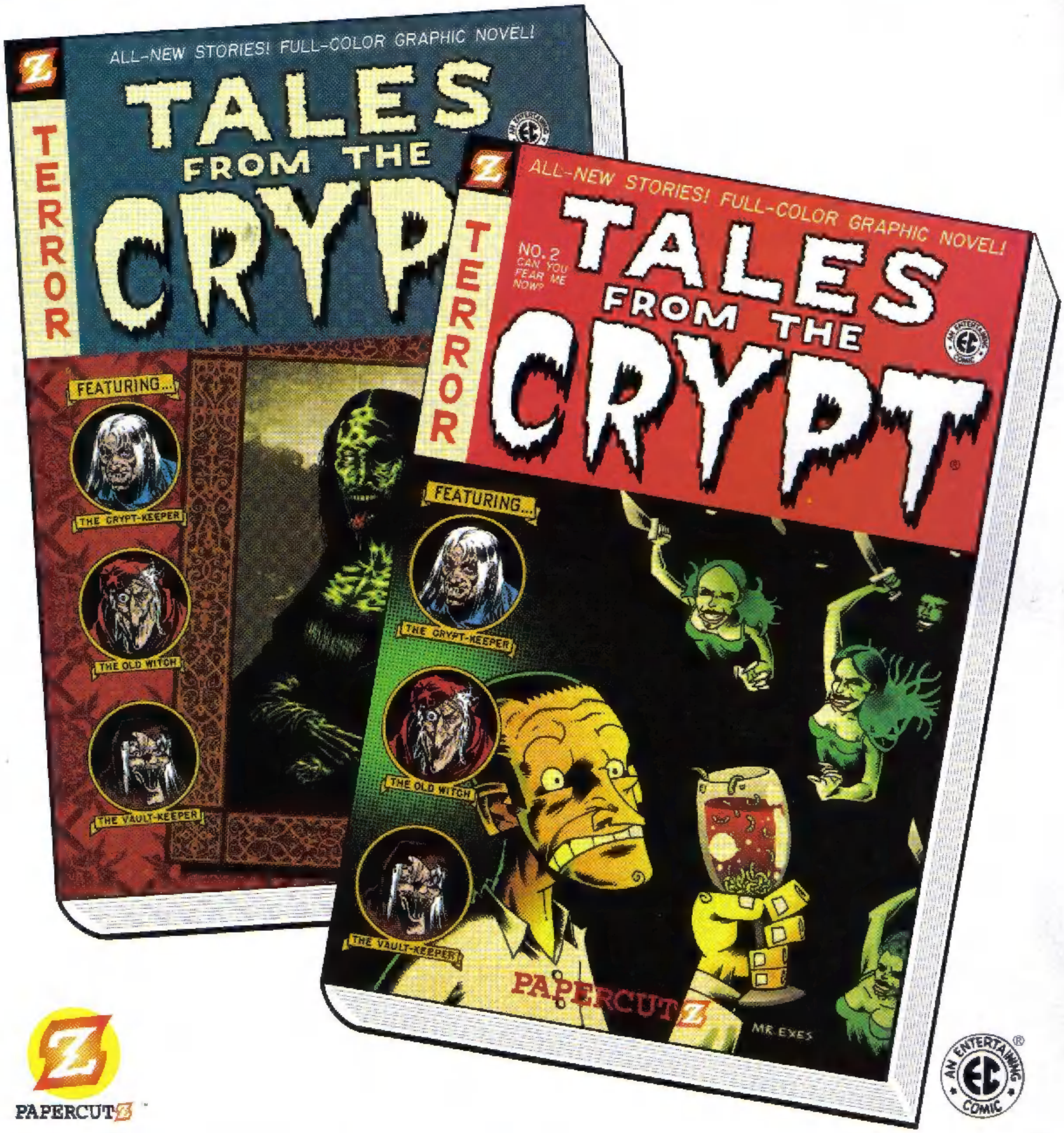
The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your RABID REVIEWS to our elderly editor at: salicrup@papercutz.com.

E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!

(But we're coming out with these collections anyway!)



PAPERCUTZ

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